WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

Dan Curtis

Daniel Mayer Cherkoss (August 12, 1927 – March 27, 2006[1]), known by his pen name **Dan Curtis**, was an American television and film director, screenwriter, and producer. He was best known as the creator of the gothic soap opera *Dark Shadows* (1966–71), and for directing the epic World War II miniseries *The Winds of War* (1983) and *War and Remembrance* (1988).[2][3][4][5]

Curtis' is also known to horror film fans for his work on several horror-themed television series and films, including *The Night Stalker* (1972) and its sequel *The Night Strangler* (1973), *Bram Stoker's Dracula* (1974) and *Trilogy of Terror* (1975).[6][7] He also directed three feature films – the *Dark Shadows* spinoffs *House of Dark Shadows* (1970) and *Night of Dark Shadows* (1971), and the supernatural horror *Burnt Offerings* (1976).

Curtis was nominated for five Primetime Emmy Awards, winning Outstanding Limited Series for *War and Remembrance*, for which he also won the Directors Guild of America Award for Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Dramatic Specials.

Dan Curtis

Born	Daniel Mayer Cherkoss[1] August 12, 1927 Bridgeport, Connecticut, U.S.
Died	March 27, 2006 (aged 78) Brentwood, California, U.S.
Occupation(s)	Director, screenwriter, producer
Spouse	Norma Mae Klein (m. 1952–2006) (her death)
Children	3

Career

Curtis's series of macabre films include *House of Dark Shadows*, *Night of Dark Shadows*, *The Night Stalker* (for many years holding the record ratings of the most-watched TV movie—and inspired the series *Kolchak: The Night Stalker*), *Intruders*, *The Night Strangler*, *Burnt Offerings*, *Trilogy of Terror* and its belated sequel *Trilogy of Terror II*, *The Norliss Tapes* (a 1973 pilot for an unproduced series starring Roy Thinnes), *Curse of the Black Widow*, *Dead of Night*, and *Scream of the Wolf*. He worked frequently with sci-fi/horror writers Richard Matheson and William F. Nolan. Curtis was producer and/or director of several television adaptations of classic horror texts including *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1968), *Frankenstein* (1973), *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1973), *Dracula* (1974), and *The Turn of the Screw* (1974).

In 1978, Curtis made a departure from his usual macabre offerings, when he wrote, produced, and directed the sentimental NBC television film *When Every Day Was the Fourth of July*. Although fictionalized, the film was semi-autobiographical, based on his childhood growing up in Bridgeport,

Connecticut, in the 1930s. The film was originally intended to be a pilot for a potential series, but when the series was not picked up by the NBC network, Curtis produced and directed the 1980 television movie sequel *The Long Days of Summer*, this time airing on the ABC network.

His 1983 miniseries *The Winds of War*, the most watched miniseries in American television history, was nominated for four Emmy Awards.

Curtis also directed the *War and Remembrance* miniseries, which was the continuation of *The Winds of War*. The program was 30 hours in length, split into two segments. Chapters I-VII aired in November 1988. The remaining five parts, Chapters VIII-XII, were billed as "The Final Chapter", and aired in May 1989. The miniseries received 15 Emmy Award nominations, including for best actor (John Gielgud), actress (Jane Seymour), supporting actor (Barry Bostwick), and supporting actress (Polly Bergen). The show won Emmys for best miniseries, special effects, and single-camera production editing.

The New York Times profiled Curtis while in post-production on *War and Remembrance*.[8]

Curtis's rights to *Dark Shadows* remain with his estate, which signed a deal with Warner Bros. for a new *Dark Shadows* movie. The film stars Johnny Depp as Barnabas Collins, was directed by Tim Burton, and was released in May 2012. After the film's end credits, there is a dedication to Dan Curtis.

In 2023, he was inducted into the Rondo Hatton Classic Horror Awards' Monster Kid Hall of Fame.[9]

Personal life

Born Daniel Cherkoss in Bridgeport, Connecticut, Curtis attended Syracuse University before becoming a syndicated television show salesman.[1]

Curtis died on March 27, 2006, at his home in Brentwood, Los Angeles, California, twenty days after the death of his wife Norma. He was survived by two daughters.[1]

Filmography

As director

Year	Title	Functioned as			Notes
		Director	Writer	Producer	
1968-1969	*Dark Shadows*	yes (20 episodes)	yes	yes	
1970	*House of Dark Shadows*	yes	no	yes	
1971	*Night of Dark Shadows*	yes	yes	yes	
1973	*The Night Strangler*	yes	no	yes	
1973	*The Norliss Tapes*	yes	no	yes	
1973	*The Invasion of Carol Enders*	yes	no	yes	uncredited
1974	*Scream of the Wolf*	yes	no	yes	
1974	*Bram Stoker's Dracula*	yes	no	yes	
1974	*Melvin Purvis: G-Man*	yes	no	yes	
1974	*The Turn of the Screw*	yes	no	yes	
1974	*The Wide World of Mystery*	yes (episode: “Nightmare at 43 Hillcrest”)	yes (2 episodes)	yes	
1974	*The Great Ice Rip-Off*	yes	no	yes	
1975	*Trilogy of Terror*	yes	no	yes	
1975	*The Kansas City Massacre*	yes	no	yes	
1976	*Burnt Offerings*	yes	yes	yes	
1977	*Dead of Night*	yes	no	yes	
1977	*Curse of the Black Widow*	yes	no	yes	
1978	*When Every Day Was the Fourth of July*	yes	yes	yes	
1979	*The Last Ride of the Dalton Gang*	yes	no	no	
1980	*The Long Days of Summer*	yes	no	no	Executive Producer
1983	*The Winds of War (miniseries)*	yes	no	yes	
1988	*War and Remembrance*	yes	yes	no	Executive Producer
1992	*Intruders (miniseries)*	yes	no	no	Executive Producer
1993	*Me and the Kid*	yes	no	no	
1996	*Trilogy of Terror II*	yes	yes	no	

1998	*The Love Letter*	yes	no	no	
2005	*Saving Milly*	yes	no	no	
2005	*Our Fathers*	yes	no	no	

As producer

Year	Title	Notes
1968	*The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*	
1972	*The Night Stalker*	first Kolchak film
1973	*Frankenstein*	also co-writer
1973	*The Picture of Dorian Gray*	an entry in ABC's series *The Movie of the Week*
1991	*Dark Shadows*	re-imagining of the 1966–71 series

References

1. Carter, Bill (March 29, 2006). "Dan Curtis, Producer of 'Winds of War' TV Series, Dies at 78" (https://www.nytimes.com/2006/03/29/arts/television/dan-curtis-producer-of-winds-of-war-tv-series-dies-at-78.html). *The New York Times*. Retrieved October 23, 2017.
2. The New York Times, March 29, 2006: *Dan Curtis, Producer of 'Winds of War' TV Series, Dies at 78* (https://www.nytimes.com/2006/03/29/arts/television/29curtis.html?_r=0) Linked 2013-08-27
3. USA Today, March 27, 2006: *TV producer Dan Curtis dies at 78* (http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/life/people/2006-03-27-dan-curtis-obit_x.htm) Linked 2013-08-27
4. Los Angeles Times, March 29, 2006: *Dan Curtis, Obituary* (http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/latimes/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=17265555#sthash.Bu0NP8fr.dpbs) Linked 2013-08-27
5. The Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, March 29, 2006: *Director-Producer Dan Curtis Passes* (http://www.emmys.tv/news/2006/director-producer-dan-curtis-passes) Linked 2013-08-27
6. Dark Shadows Journal Online: *Remembering Dan Curtis* (http://www.collinwood.net/curtis/curtis-obit.htm) Linked 2013-08-27
7. Fangirl Magazine: *Memories: Dan Curtis* (http://www.fangirlmag.com/articles/memories-dan-curtis/) Linked 2013-08-27
8. Harmetz, Aljean (November 6, 1988). "TELEVISION; Waging Wouk's 'War and Remembrance' " (https://www.nytimes.com/1988/11/06/arts/television-waging-wouk-s-war-and-remembrance.html?login=email&pagewanted=all). *The New York Times*. Retrieved October 23, 2017.
9. "Here are the Winners of the (Gasp!) 21st Annual Rondo Hatton Classic Horror awards" (https://web.archive.org/web/20230513013610/https://rondoaward.com/rondoaward.com/blog/?p=1509). *RondoAward.com*. May 29, 2023. Archived from the original on May 13, 2023. Retrieved May 29, 2023.

External links

- Dan Curtis (https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0193303/) at IMDb

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Dan_Curtis&oldid=1270377348"